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# Morris to Host ACE Fellow, Michelle Stewart

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## **Morris to Host ACE Fellow, Michelle Stewart**

The University of Minnesota, Morris will welcome Michelle Curtain Stewart, vice president of academic affairs at Lane College and a [2017–18 American Council on Education \(ACE\) Fellow](#), to campus for the 2017-2018 academic year.

Established in 1965, the ACE Fellows Program strengthens institutional and leadership capacity in American higher education by identifying and preparing faculty and staff for senior positions in college and university administration. Fellows choose their host institutions, where they closely observe and participate in the life of the university and are mentored by the university's senior leaders.

"Selection as a host institution is a sign of the outstanding reputation and commitment to excellence at the University of Minnesota, Morris," said Sherri Lind Hughes, director of ACE Leadership and a 2002–03 ACE Fellow. "An ACE Fellow chooses an institution not only for its rigorous academic environment, high-quality efforts to educate students, but also its strong desire to invest in the future of higher education senior leadership as well."

Stewart chose Morris for the campus community's dedication to students and to history, mission, and vision.

"During my campus visit, I was impressed by the level of commitment to students and collaboration among campus leaders. When I asked about faculty engagement with students, faculty were described as caring and willing to go the extra mile to ensure student success," she says. "Finally, I selected UMM because of the commitment that Chancellor Behr has expressed to building on the rich history of the campus and community, its shared governance model, and because of its sustainability initiatives."

At Morris 51% of students participate in undergraduate research with a faculty member. Morris makes its home on a nearly 130-year-old campus, and it's known internationally for its leadership efforts around climate protection and sustainability.

Stewart earned a bachelor's degree in political science from Alcorn State University as well as a master's in sociology and a doctorate in educational leadership from Indiana University-Bloomington. She came to Lane College in 2007 as an assistant professor of sociology and was promoted to associate professor of sociology with tenure in 2014. Prior to joining Lane College, she served as executive director of the International Association for the Study of the Commons at Indiana University.

### **About ACE**

Founded in 1918, ACE is the major coordinating body for all the nation's higher education institutions, representing more than 1,600 college and university presidents and related associations. It provides leadership on key higher education issues and influences public policy through advocacy. For more information, please visit [acenet.edu](http://acenet.edu) or follow ACE on Twitter [@ACEducation](https://twitter.com/ACEducation).

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